(d) if so, to what extent the pro- blem of acute shortage of power in the country is likely to be met with the help of Soviet assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE ' DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) In the Eighth Meeting of the Indo-Soviet Wo'rking Group on Power held in Moscow from 12th to 17th October, 1987, both sides recognised that prospects exist in respect of enlarging cooperation in the construction of new thermal/hydro power stations and transmission and distribution systems. The Soviet side indicated their interest in extending assistance, on mutually acceptable terms and conditions, for new projects of an aggregate capacity of 3090 MW on which work could start before March, 1990. The Indian side agreed to examine the offer expeditiously in the light of their new capacity induction plans.

To the extent viable projects are taken up for implementation, these would contribute to augmenting power availability in the country.

Raising Prices of Drugs by Drug Companies

232. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug companies can raise the prices of their drugs at their Own will; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the reasons for not imposing a condition on the drug companies for obtaining permission of Government which may also permit the company to increase the Price to a certain extent instead of putting a burden on the poor patients from time to time; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH); (a) The drug companies can revise the prices of their price decontrolled products only as per DPCO, 1987.

(b) and (c) The companies are required to take the approval of the Government for the prices of all their products which are controlled under the DPCO, 1987.

ताप विद्युत के उत्पादन के लक्ष्य

233. **श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग :** क्या **ऊर्जा** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान ताप विद्युत के उत्पादन के क्या-क्या लक्ष्य रखे गये हैं और इस संबंध में प्रथम दो वर्षों में कितनी प्रगति हुई है ;

(ख) सूखे तथा वर्षा की कमी के कारण इसके उत्पादन पर क्या प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है और इससे संयंत्र भार गुणक (प्लान्ट लोड फैक्टर) के राष्ट्रीय औसत में कितनी कमी आई है और उसका क्या असर हुआ है ; और

(ग) ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता की तुलना में इसमें कितनी कमी हुई है और इस स्थिति स निपटने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में विद्युत विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी) : (क) सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अंतिम वर्ष के दौरान ताप विद्युत उत्पादन का लक्ष्य 193.87 मिलियन यूनिट निर्धारित किया गया है ? इसकी तुलना में योजनावधि के प्रथम दो वर्षों के दौरान वास्तविक उत्पादन निम्नानुसार रहा :

1985-86	114.12 मिलियन यूनिट
1986-87	128.80 मिलियन यूनिट

(ख) सूखे तथा वर्षा की कमी के कारण त प विद्युत उत्पादन पर कोई